

# Power of the Landed Question(s)

## On Technology, Reciprocity, And Authority

Bianca Wylie - Scholars Portal Days 2025

# Part I

# CONTINUITY

# Part II

# METHOD

# INDIGENOUS TORONTO

STORIES THAT  
CARRY THIS  
PLACE



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Part I

CONTINUITY



Dr. Franklin at the Fate of the Earth, third biennial conference, 1986. University of Toronto Archives. B1996-0004/001P(26). Photo by Robert Del Tredici

# The Real World of Technology

Ursula Franklin (1989)

# The Force of Non-violence

Judith Butler (2020)

What if the abstractions of law  
and policy - and our deferral  
to them with questions of tech  
- is causing the ac/quiescence  
of our power?

On Democracy & Governance

**RIGHTS**

responsibilities

**Scale**

**Scope**

**Humility**

**Pragmatism**

EMER  
GENT  
STRAT  
EGY

SHAPING CHANGE, CHANGING WORLDS

adrienne maree brown

“In general, technical arrangements reduce or eliminate reciprocity.”

Ursula M. Franklin,  
The Real World of Technology, 1989

# Part II

# METHOD

**Speed & Efficiency**  
**Rationality & Experts**  
**Consumerism**

**Together these can engender a world  
of compliance and control**

**Slowness & Inefficiency**  
**Non-Rationality & Publics**  
**Civic and Citizen and Resident**

**Together these can engender a world  
of liberation and pluralism**

# Select current considerations for technology use in the public sector

- \*centralized/decentralized/devolved under austerity
- \*vendors and related dependencies
- \*unionization as procurement leverage
- \*deskilling and automation
- \*communities of practice

the high moral costs  
of  
pretend economies

# Select considerations for technology use in the Public Sector

- \*centralized/decentralized/devolved under austerity
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- \*communities of practice

**Landing the Question(s)**

**Power of the Questions(s)**

**+**

**Power of the Process(es)**

# Power of the Questions(s)

**Landing the Question(s)**

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# Landing the Question(s)

Ursula Franklin - 1989

“... whether it:

1. promotes justice;
2. restores reciprocity;
3. confers divisible or indivisible benefits;
4. favours people over machines;
5. whether its strategy maximizes gain or minimizes disaster;
6. whether conservation is favoured over waste; and
7. whether the reversible is favoured over the irreversible?”

# Landing the Question(s)

L.M. Sacasas - 2015

41 questions concerning technology. The first few:

1. What sort of person will the use of this technology make of me?
2. What habits will the use of this technology instill?
3. How will the use of this technology affect my experience of time?
4. How will the use of this technology affect my experience of place?
5. How will the use of this technology affect how I relate to other people?
6. What practices will this technology displace?

# Landing the Question(s)

## Wendell Berry – 1987

1. The new tool should be cheaper than the one it replaces.
2. It should be at least as small in scale as the one it replaces.
3. It should do work that is clearly and demonstrably better than the one it replaces.
4. It should use less energy than the one it replaces.
5. If possible, it should use some form of solar energy, such as that of the body.
6. It should be repairable by a person of ordinary intelligence, provided that he or she has the necessary tools.

# Landing the Question(s)

Neil Postman - 1997

1. What is the problem to which technology claims to be a solution?
2. Whose problem is it?
3. What new problems will be created because of solving an old one?
4. Which people and institutions will be most harmed?
5. What changes in language are being promoted?
6. What shifts in economic and political power are likely to result?
7. What alternative media might be made from a technology?

Landing the Question(s)

Power of the Process(es)

# Landing the Question(s)

To build with intention, the work is *\*outside\**  
and *\*around\** the technology

Processes to intervene in with these questions:  
procurements, renewals, negotiations, meetings, job  
reviews, job descriptions, public engagement,  
invented communities of practice, standards -  
others?

# Landing the Question(s)

To build with intention, the work is *\*outside\**  
and *\*around\** the technology

this email should have been a meeting

# Landing the Question(s)

To build with intention, the work is  
**\*outside\*** and **\*around\*** the technology

holding each other accountable.

being the crossing guard for our values.

# Landing the Question(s)

To build with intention, the work is  
**\*outside\*** and **\*around\*** the technology

holding ourselves accountable  
going slowly enough to be careful



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**Thank You**

Links to the questions all in one place :) Austin Kleon's website:

<https://austinkleon.com/tag/ursula-franklin/>

MAY 14

# CROSSWORD FOR WEDNESDAY

## ACROSS

- 1 Stops up
- 5 Urn contents
- 10 Comedian — Newhart
- 13 Sloth
- 14 "It's a jungle out —!"
- 15 Spear
- 16 Dye plant
- 17 Coastal bird
- 18 Troubles
- 19 Edible seed
- 21 WWII Gen. — MacArthur
- 23 Got a high grade on a test
- 25 — Stanley Gardner
- 26 Signify
- 29 Din
- 33 "Roses — red ..."
- 34 Recess
- 37 Building addition
- 38 Tiers
- 40 Trial setting
- 8 Destroy by degrees
- 9 Man of Madrid
- 10 Beak
- 11 State near Miss.
- 12 "Porgy and —"
- 15 Birds common in cities
- 20 Holy image
- 22 Forearm bone
- 24 Scenery
- 26 Insert mark
- 27 Town in Maine
- 28 Salamanders
- 30 Pointless
- 31 Attack (2 wds.)
- 32 Put forth effort

## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

S	A	W	S		D	R	A	W		P	I	E	S
P	R	E	P		W	A	N	E	S		A	R	A
A	L	E	E		I	N	D	I	A		L	A	R
M	O	D	E	R	N		A	R	G	U	M	E	N
					D	U	D	S		D	O	N	T
B	A	B	Y	B	L	U	E			U	R	G	E
E	U	R		S	E	E	R			M	E	R	G
E	G	I	S		S	T	O	V	E		E	A	R
R	E	N	T	S			D	E	N	T		T	E
					R	E	A	L		E	S	T	I
						R	E	S	T		T	O	T
F	O	O	T	W	E	A	R			M	I	T	T
E	V	I	L		C	L	I	M	B		H	I	L
E	A	S	E		T	E	P	E	E		O	L	I
S	L	E	D			S	E	N	D		D	E	A

- 50 "Neither a borrower nor a — be"
- 52 Watch faces
- 53 Wood shoe
- 55 Woodwind